

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET
Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.3% (327) reside in the Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (62) of Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 72.4% of admissions from the Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District were male and 27.5% were female.
- Over 68.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 90.5% of admissions were white non-Latino, 4.0% were black non-Latino, 2.1% were Latino, and 3.4% were other racial categories.
- 67.58% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.1% were married, and 11.0% reported not to be married now.
- 23.2% of admissions had less than high school education, 48.6% completed high school, and 28.1% had more than high school education.
- 37.3% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 6.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 8.0% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1							
Annual Admissions by Substance Used							
FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	323	244	93	82	57	83	51
FY '96	306	252	72	78	42	75	47
FY '97	355	303	112	81	42	67	53
FY '98	311	258	90	73	30	74	54
FY '99	360	252	117	94	41	136	91
FY '00	263	200	63	54	18	86	62
FY '01	327	205	79	78	24	158	110

- Since peaking in FY 1997, residents of Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District reported a leveling off in alcohol use, but an increase in heroin use. Alcohol use decreased by 32%, while heroin use increased by 133%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting marijuana use decreased by 15%, cocaine by 4%, and crack use by 57%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirty-fifth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	42.9 %	38.2%	5.0%	4.7%	8.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, heroin, cocaine, and crack was higher within your District.